

To: members of the SF State Academic Senate
From: Teddy Albiniak, Senator from Liberal and Creative Arts

May 3, 2017

Dear Esteemed Colleagues:

I am writing to seek your support in my attempt to become the Vice Chair of the Academic Senate in 2017-18.

As a 2007 graduate from the Master's program in Communications Studies, I learned from a students' perspective about the numerous benefits (and barriers) of involvement in the SF State community. It is of no surprise that I welcomed the opportunity to return to the campus in 2015 as the Director of Forensics, leading the SF State speech and debate team to continued national and regional prominence. With over 20 years of experience crafting policy and inducing debate (including legislative research, construction, judgment, and strategic messaging), it is my sincere hope that you allow me to put that level of experience to work as Vice Chair.

Siting on the Academic Policy Committee during the '16-17 year I got a sense of the immense opportunities and challenges that will face us in the next year, including: recruiting and retaining great people across all stakeholder groups while crafting the pedagogical and physical infrastructure to meet the need in a way the balances equity, cost, and justice. I see three important concepts that ought to guide university policy:

1. Strengthen the role of self-governance, including furthering efforts to make data and decision-making transparent, while encouraging healthy discussion in collegial climates with colleagues and friends. We must continue to ensure the Senate remains a body that matters by passing strong resolutions and policy with teeth; create more opportunities to listen to the campus as we set our legislative agenda; and ask tough and direct questions in our committees to assist the final decision-makers in their complex task.
2. Ensure new projects and campus (re)organizations reflect campus values including the "unwavering commitment to social justice" and to the supremely important task of strengthening public education for all
3. Continue to create linkages with all constituents to transform silos into communities. I would like to draw on my experience with direct service programing in the form of public debate events, Senate-sponsored dialogue workshops, and with the Presidential Speaker series to ensure that we make SF State a community of support not simply a location of labor.

I would be honored and excited to serve in any capacity, but I sincerely hope you allow me the opportunity to direct my energy into leadership as the Vice Chair of the Senate. I would love to devote my time, my ear, and my experience to our premiere institution of collective engagement. As a graduate student senator at the UT-Austin (where I am completing my doctorate work) I learned both the tremendous importance of this body and Roberts Rules!

Thanks for your time and your support –

Teddy Albiniak